



Utah Division of Wildlife Resources

Law Enforcement Section

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Public Information Release

Southern Region
1470 North Airport Road, Cedar City, UT 84720

Sevier County Man Charged In Elk Poaching

July 16, 2011

On November 9, 2011, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR) officers received a complaint from two concerned sportsmen who believed they had just witnessed an elk being illegally taken in the Poverty Flat area of Sevier County. The two men weren't sure that the animal was a legal spike elk and requested that UDWR officers investigate the situation. UDWR Officers immediately responded and contacted two individuals field dressing the elk.

During the investigation it was determined that the elk was in fact a legal spike, but found an issue with the tag that was placed on the animal. The elk had been tagged with a permit belonging to the wife of the Richfield resident that had shot the elk. In fact, the female permit holder was not even present at the scene. The elk was subsequently seized by officers and appropriate charges filed.

On February 1, 2011, the individual pleaded guilty to Wanton Destruction of Protected Wildlife (Misdemeanor A), and was ordered to pay \$500 dollars in court fines and \$750 dollars restitution to the Utah Help Stop Poaching Hotline. He also faces a possible five-year suspension of his big game hunting privileges in Utah and 35 other states that participate in the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact. The two sportsmen that first notified the DWR officers received rewards for the crucial assistance they provided which ultimately lead to the successful prosecution of the offender.

As fall quickly approaches hunters should be mindful of the fact that "party hunting" is illegal. Utah law prohibits individuals from lending or borrowing tags and permits. This practice is taken seriously by UDWR officers because it reduces the opportunity of other sportsmen to legally take game animals.

If you suspect an individual or group of individuals are engaged in this activity or violating any other wildlife law, please notify UDWR officers immediately by contacting the UTIP Hotline at 1-800-662-3337. Please accurately record as many details as possible. Names and descriptions of individuals, location specifics and particularly vehicle descriptions and license plate information will greatly increase the likelihood of a successful prosecution. Officers encourage the public to avoid making contact with violators - simply be a good witness.

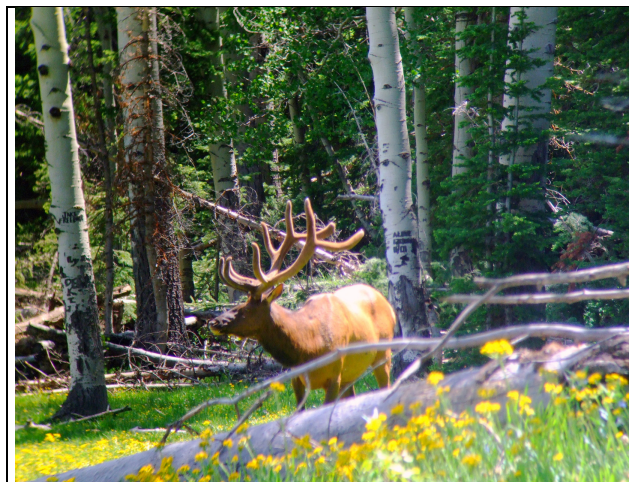
Additional Contact(s):

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The illegally taken elk on Poverty Flat



2011 Monroe Mountain Elk

